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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE-

ABRAHAM LINCOLN POST 11 G.A.R HOLDS ANNUAL VETERANS DINNER



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTO

The Abraham Lincoln Post 11 G.A.R held its annual Veterans Dinner at the Knights Of Columbus Hall. This is the 11th year of their fundraising event that honors those who have served our country. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

DiDomenico secures Everett Stadium language in Economic Development bill

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

This week, the Massachusetts State Senate and House came to an agreement on an Economic Development bill, An Act Relative to strengthening Massachusetts' economic leadership, which will inject millions of dollars into critical sectors, develop the state's workforce, grow the economy, and make Massachusetts more competitive. Thanks to Senator DiDomenico's advocacy and leadership on this issue, the bill also includes language that will allow for the construction of a professional soccer stadium and waterfront park in

The language removes the classification of a parcel of land in



A rendering of the proposed professional soccer stadium in Everett.

Ryan's statement on soccer stadium project

State Rep. Dan Ryan, who represents Charlestown and the portion of Everett that includes the potential site of the soccer stadium, has released the follow-

ing statement:

"After three years of working through the legislative process,

(**R**YAN *Pg*. 9)

Chain Forge RFP process and Brownfields grant discussed at meeting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Late last month, the Planning Department hosted another public meeting regarding the Chain Forge Building — Building 105 in the Navy Yard — which is undergoing a new process to redevelop the site after the previously planned project, which would have brought a hotel and other amenities, fell through.

At the beginning of the meeting, Yoon Cha, a Real Estate Development Officer at the Planning Department, reviewed the disposition process, which includes developing and releasing a request for proposal (RFP), and provided a short recap of the previous meeting held in September.

September's meeting was covered in the September 19th edition of the Patriot-Bridge, and the meeting recording can be viewed

at https://www.bostonplans.org/planning-zoning/planning-initiatives/chain-forge-building-105-disposition-planning.

Additionally, Cha highlighted some of the comments from September's meeting regarding what residents would like to see at the property. Comments ranged from folks wanting to see a mix of uses to space for art, sports recreation, a grocery store, a hotel, and more.

"There's a lot of excitement to see something happen here and a tremendous amount of support, which we so appreciate, and we had some really interesting ideas," said Cha.

After taking these comments, Cha indicated they grouped them into three categories: neighborhood needs, community and recreation, and important considerations.

(CHAIN FORGE Pg. 4)

CNC MEETING DATES

CNC Election update - Due to a lack of candidates, the Charlestown Neighborhood Council has announced that the upcoming election, originally scheduled for Saturday, November 16, 2024, will not take place as planned. New council members will be seated in December 2024, and the election process will resume in January 2025 to fill the remaining precinct seats.

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council encourages all residents interested in serving their community to consider running in the next election cycle. For more information or to get involved, visit www. cnc02129.org or contact the Charlestown Neighborhood Council at cnc02129@gmail.com.

CNC Development Committee Meeting, Thursday, November 21, 2024, 7 PM - 46 High Street - The Charlestown Neighborhood Council's Development Committee will hold an in-person public meeting at the Mary Colbert Apartments, 20 Devens Street, on Thursday, November 21, at 7 PM. The sole agenda item will be the proposed 46 High Street project. A presentation by the project proponents will be followed by an opportunity for the committee and community to ask questions.

(Stadium Pg. 9)

EDITORIAL

WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON HERE, REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

-- Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities.

With the holiday season now upon us, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line --- to do our holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

Although economic uncertainty, spurred by the after-effects of recordhigh inflation, continues to afflict almost every American household, most of us are doing okay, if not extremely well, thanks to unemployment rates that are near historic record-lows.

However, the strong economy (from an employment standpoint) that is being enjoyed by the vast majority of Americans has not been shared by all. For a sizable number of our fellow citizens, the lingering effects of the pandemic, as well as the fraying of the fabric of our social safety net in recent years, have come together to represent an existential disaster.

Millions of Americans of all ages, in a percentage greater than at any time since the Great Depression, are struggling financially, even if they have a job.

To put it in stark terms, more Americans, including families in our own communities, are going hungry than at any time in our recent history. It is estimated that 13.5 percent (18 million) of U.S. households were food insecure at some time during 2023, exceeding the 12.8 percent number in 2022. An estimated 44.2 million Americans live in food-insecure households, of whom 20 percent are children.

In addition, thanks to the lack of affordable new housing and skyhigh rents, far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because our economy literally has left them out in the cold.

Millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let alone buying a home) unaffordable. The problem has been most acute in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and the Boston Metro area, for many years, but now has spread to almost every part of the country. Thousands of homeless Americans, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in their cars or on the streets.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what is seen in the major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy.

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Helping others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow" effect.

Never in the lifetime of anybody reading this editorial has the need for contributions to local food banks been more urgent. There will be ample opportunities in the coming days to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate, whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even just dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas.

There simply is no excuse for those of us who are among the more fortunate for failing to make some effort over the next four weeks to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.

GUEST OP-ED

Logan Airport and Hanscom Field: A Tale of Two Environmental Reports

By Corinne Doud & Valinda Chan

During October, the Secretary of **Energy and Environmental Affairs** for the state of Massachusetts, Rebecca Tepper, approved two very important Massport assessment reports for New England's top two busiest airports: Boston Logan International Airport and Hanscom Field general aviation airport (not Hanscom Air Force Base). Environmental Status and Planning Reports (ESPRs) are prepared by Massport every five years and provide annual updates and long-range analysis of projected operations, passengers, and cumulative impacts of overall airport activity. Logan International Airport and Hanscom Field were both due for ESPR reports in 2022, but the multi-year process means that reports don't receive approval or denial until years after their submission, rendering them more retroactive than planning reports. Both Logan and Hanscom are currently facing community pushback for expansion efforts.

In autumn of 2023, Logan Airport quietly opened the expansion of its international terminal, a move criticized by Logan-Area residents as a misuse of resources during a major air pollution crisis in the area. At a rally on the airport's 100th anniversary, Chris Marchi, the long-time Vice President of the nonprofit Airport Impact Relief, Inc (AIR Inc) addressed the crowd saying, "We should not congratulate this airport while it poisons environmental justice communities. We should be avowing to change. Massachusetts needs to stop excusing environmental destruction for pet projects. When will this state's leaders finally disown claims that we need to accept environmental sacrifices for the survival of our economy?"

Air pollution, including pollution caused by aircraft emissions, is scientifically linked to major health problems in communities where exposure is high. A Logan Airport Health study found that children in East Boston are four times more likely to exhibit signs of asthma compared with children in other areas. In addition, the study found that adults who have chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease (COPD) are more likely to have lived in areas of high exposure to pollutants for long periods of time, such as near Logan Airport. The East Boston neighborhood next to Logan is a "hotspot" for many different types of cancer, suggesting environmental causes for these illnesses.

On top of exposure to harmful pollutants, East Boston has the lowest tree canopy coverage in the city, largely because of the infrastructure built for Logan Airport. This contributes to the urban heat island effect, or hotter temperatures. East Boston near Logan experiences the urban heat island effect worse than most other neighborhoods in the region on average. Because of the increase in temperature and worsening of heatwaves caused by urban heat islands, they often lead to an increase in heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and even heart attacks in affected communities according to MIT. As a result of all of this, community members in East Boston are far more likely to fall ill as a result of living near Logan Airport.

Meanwhile, Hanscom Field is facing a proposed expansion of private jet infrastructure to benefit the ultra-wealthy. The proposed Hanscom Field expansion would allegedly clear-cut about 20 acres of mature woods. According to an independent analysis by Industrial Economics Inc, it would add approximately 6,000 additional private jet flights annually, and about 150,000 tons of carbon emissions each year – essentially to benefit a privileged few. If the expansion proceeds, private jet

emissions from Hanscom alone would cancel nearly 70% of all solar PV ever installed in Massachusetts. Advocates from Boston to the Berkshires and beyond decry this expansion for fueling the climate crisis.

Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere, a coalition of over 95 organizations, is widely known for their work to halt the proposed expansion of Hanscom Field. Last fall they submitted a petition to Governor Healey urging her to halt the massive fossil fuel development, delivering over 10,000 signatures (now 14,000).

Recently, the coalition helped generate over 1,500 public comments to MEPA (Office of MA Environmental Policy Act) on the Hanscom developers' Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) from individuals and organizations, as well as government officials. These comments were overwhelmingly in opposition to the proposed expansion, many of them arguing that the proposed development was antithetical to state and federal climate goals for 2050. In June, EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper rejected the Hanscom developers' DEIR and instructed them to file a supplementary report that more fully and accurately reported the expected environmental and climate costs of their project.

Secretary Tepper approved the Hanscom and Logan ESPRs, respectively on October 11 and

(Op-Ed Pg. 4)

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Wu signs order to adjust property tax exemption for veterans

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Veterans' Services Commissioner Rob Santiago, City Councilors, and veterans to sign an order that adjusts the property tax exemption for Boston veterans to better match the increased cost of living. This exemption increase, originally filed in the City Council by Councilor Brian Worrell, aims to increase affordability and housing ownership opportunities for eligible veterans. The order signed yesterday increases the base exemption annually by an amount equal to the increase in the cost of living as determined by the Consumer Price Index. Mayor Wu also announced a second round of Veterans Services' Bridge the Gap Mini-Grant Program, with grants totaling \$200,000 to support local organizations that work with veterans and their families.

"Our veterans and their families risk everything and sacrifice to ensure Boston and our country is free and safe. As the cost of living increases, we're proud to stand with our colleagues on the City Council and at the State House to help our veterans make a home here in Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This Veterans Day, we're also proud to launch another round of grant funding for organizations with existing connections to our veterans that help them access the services they've earned."

"The Mayor's Office of Veterans' Services is dedicated to supporting the well-being of veterans, service members, and their families, and ensuring that Boston remains a welcoming and affordable home for them," said Veterans' Services Commissioner Robert Santiago. "The Bridge the Gap Mini-Grant Program will offer crucial support to local organizations committed to serving our veteran and military communities. This initiative will help address unmet needs and fill any gaps that may remain even after other benefits are accessed."

"I was proud to introduce this tax order to ensure our veterans see an increase in their property tax exemption and that they can see this exemption tied to cost-ofliving increases in future years," said City Councilor Brian Worrell. "I'm thrilled that Boston will continue to maintain its reputation for

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supporting its veterans by being one of the first cities in this state to opt into this program."

Boston opted in to adjust the property tax exemption following the Legislature's passing of the HERO Act signed by Governor Maura Healey in August, which allows for individual municipalities to increase their exemption for eligible veterans. The property tax exemption is granted to Purple Heart recipients, Gold Star parents, veterans with a service-related disability, and surviving spouses. The cost of living adjustment will happen annually beginning in

"We're grateful to Mayor Wu and the City of Boston for supporting the HERO Act's expanded property tax exemptions for our veterans," said Secretary Jon Santiago of the State's Executive Office of Veterans Services. "Through efforts like this, Boston is setting an example in honoring the service of our veterans with real, impactful support."

Before today's signing by the Mayor, the property tax exemption adjustment was introduced by Councilor Worrell and passed unanimously by the City Council on October 23. Residents can learn more about the exemption and how to apply here.

Mayor Wu also announced the city will soon open applications for a second round of Bridge the Gap Mini-Grants, designed to support veterans, service members, and their families. The mini-grants will be awarded to organizations that support the veteran community of Boston and "bridge the gap" that may exist for veterans after accessing other benefits. The grant program, the first of its kind for the City, initially launched in May, with 12 local veterans groups benefiting from the first round of funding. Due to demand for the financial support, the City is launching a second round of applications for the mini-grants.

Funds for this round will be used to support Boston nonprofits that help veterans with key issue areas, including: housing, transportation, health and wellness, upward economic mobility, legal services, and educational programming. A total of \$200,000 is available across the second round, with individual applicants able to apply for up to \$9,999 in funding. Applicants can apply here starting Tuesday, November 12 through March 6, 2025.

"Thanks to the generous grant from the Mayor's Office of Veterans' Services, we've been able to make an immediate difference for our veterans," said Christine Kelly, Residential Coordinator of Patriot Homes, South Boston NDC's affordable housing development for veterans. "With this funding,

we've provided essential furniture for two tenants, distributed items from local food stores and pharmacies, and even arranged for a private van service to take residents shopping each week. This grant has truly enhanced their quality of life, supporting comfort, access, and independence."

"We are deeply grateful for the grant from the City of Boston's Office of Veterans' Services, which aids our programs at Brighton Marine. The veterans who come to us for services attend our coffee hour, group and individual therapy, and more. Vitally, they find a community space that is safe, structured, and affirming where they can share their unique stories as they relate to the trauma of war, the challenges of adjusting to subsequent civilian life, and the stressors they encounter every day. They find camaraderie, meaning, and validation, which is enormously helpful," said Italian Home for Children CEO Susan Keays.

Mayor's Office of Housing Restricted Homeownership Opportunity 2149 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

8 Income-restricted units IN THE LOTTERY								
# of Units	# of bedrooms	Price	Maximum Income Limit	# built out for mobility impairments				
1	1	\$169,500	70% AMI	-				
3	2	\$202,700	70% AMI	1				
1	1	\$269,200	100% AMI	-				
3	2	\$314,000	100% AMI	-				

8 Income-restricted Units

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<u>Maximum Incomes</u> (set by HUD/MOH + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI) as of July 2024)						
Household size	70% AMI	100% AMI				
1	\$80,010	\$114,300				
2	\$91,420	\$130,600				
3	\$102,830	\$146,900				
4	\$114,240	\$163,200				
5	\$123,410	\$176,300				
6	\$132,580	\$189,400				

Applications are available during the application period for 28 days, from November 12th - December 10th, 2024

Applications are available in person on the following days, dates, and times in the following place(s)								
Day Date		Time	Location					
Monday - Thursday (non-holidays) November 12th - December 10th, 2024 10:30am - 2:00pm at UHM Properties, 530 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA 02121								
Saturday November 16th, 2024 9:00am - 1:00pm Roxbury Branch, Boston Public Library, 149 Dudley Stre		Roxbury Branch, Boston Public Library, 149 Dudley Street, Roxbury, MA 02119						

To request an online application or to have one sent by email, visit https://bit.ly/2149WashSALESAppRequest



We will hold an informational meeting on Monday, November 18th, 2024 at 6pm, at the Roxbury Branch, Boston Public Library, 149 Dudley

Join virtually, too, through the following link: https://us06web.zoom.us/i/85723175447?pwd=1fVEBeR3TiNXvhGfRuvG7CFkhcCcbL.1

We will hold virtual ARTIST informational meetings on Tuesday, November 19th, 2024 at 6pm https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81491317367?pwd=L1MuknzsnycddnON

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **December 10th. 2024** Mailed to New Atlantic Development, 236 Huntington Ave., Suite 314, Boston, MA 02115

- Selection by Lottery
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
 Preferences Apply.

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Equal Housing Opportunity



CHAIN FORGE (from pg. 1)

In the first two categories, ideas such as having a restaurant or cultural space at the site were listed, while the important considerations category listed items such as parking availability and historic preservation.

Cha explained that the Planning Department had created development objectives for the RFP through the three abovementioned categories, which came from community feedback.

"The first step of the RFP is to come up with the goal. So, that is what's called the development objectives. So, this is kind of like what we want to see on this property," said Cha.

The four development objectives listed were to have a mixeduse adaptation, historic preservation, public destination, and resilient design.

Finally, Cha then outlined the next steps for drafting the RFP, which includes creating development and urban design guidelines — how goals will be met — and comparative evaluation criteria — how future proposals will be evaluated against one another.

Following the conversation about the RFP process, it was time to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields clean-up grant, which the planning department is applying for to help with funding to clean-up the site.

Paul Uzgiris, a Remediation Lead at Weston & Sampson involved with the grant process, discussed the work that had previously occurred at the site.

He explained that initial site investigations and remedial activ-

ities, including the abatement of asbestos materials and removal of contaminated soils, occurred in the 1990s and early 2000s.

In 2014 and 2015, Weston & Sampson got involved and performed supplemental investigations. "What all these investigations found was there's contamination in building materials, concrete, soil, and groundwater at this site," said Uzgiris.

He later said that the primary contaminants of concern were PCBs and dioxins in the soil and concrete.

"The EPA got involved due to the PCB contamination, and Weston & Sampson submitted a remediation plan on behalf of a developer that was involved in 2015 through 2020. The plan was subsequently approved by the EPA, and in 2018, approximately 100 pieces of equipment were cleaned, abated, and removed from the building," said Uzgiris.

"There are remaining approximately 40 pieces of large equipment that were cleaned then wrapped with poly sheeting, but unfortunately, further clean-

up plans were derailed during COVID. The developer was unable to secure additional funding, and they dropped out of the project, so the BPDA got involved and is now applying for this Brownfields clean-up grant to support the remediation efforts that'll make it more attractive to a developer once the remedial efforts are complete."

According to Uzgiris, the remediation project aims to reduce site risk for future redevelopment, remove contaminant exposure pathways, reduce development cost and uncertainty, and achieve regulatory closure through an activity and use limitation (AUL) that supports future redevelopment.

As part of this process, the EPA requires the completion of an analysis of Brownfields clean-up alternatives (ABCA).

Uzgiris analyzed and explained three alternatives. The first was no action, which he said was not very desirable.

Alternative two includes removing and off-site disposal of PCB-impacted building materials and soil and concrete with high PCB concentration. Additionally, this alternative would include the construction of a clean utility corridor and a four-inch concrete cap over the remediated soil and concrete areas. This alternative, estimated to cost around \$4.5 million, would also include recording an AUL on the entire property.

Alternative three would be more comprehensive and would not require an AUL; however, it would cost about \$20 million.

Ultimately, Uzgiris noted that the desired alternative is alternative two and that the grant application is due November 14th. He also indicated that funding would be awarded next fall.

Following this portion of the meeting, attendees briefly discussed everything presented before Cha closed the conversation.

In terms of the next steps, there are plans for more public meetings to discuss and review the RFP process in the coming months. For more information about the project and to view a recording of this meeting, visit the previously mentioned link.

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

October 18, stating that each report adequately complied with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act. However, she included strong caveats with each approval.

Pointing to rising passenger levels and pollution at Logan Airport, the Secretary issued a strong directive to Massport to improve its environmental performance there. The Secretary also ordered Massport to plan additional pollution reduction strategies to address the growth of environmental impacts if passenger or flights outpace forecasts. This idea answers community requests for Massport to stop using inaccurate planning forecasts. She also asked Massport to address the health, air quality, and community impacts of Logan's operations, and required that the Port Authority create a working group with the community to identify ways to reduce Logan's public health impacts, develop air quality monitoring and pollution reduction programs, form partnerships to distribute air filters, create an idling reduction plan, and simplify and improve the pollution reporting process.

Logan Community Clean Air Coalition members are cautiously optimistic about this certificate. Chris Marchi said, "We are eager to work with the Secretary's staff to help Massport implement the full slate of the Secretary's require-

ments."

Approved just a week before the Logan report, the Hanscom Field report came with a requirement: a supplemental ESPR, to be filed before the 2027 ESPR report is due. According to the Secretary's certificate, this supplemental ESPR must include, "updated forecasts of aviation activity and associated air quality and noise impacts which take into account the proposed design of North Airfield Development project (EEA# 16654), which is currently under MEPA review. The Supplemental ESPR should also provide additional data on the energy use of terminals, hangars, and other buildings at Hanscom Field. As noted below, future ESPRs should also expand on environmental justice and public health outreach and analysis, and consider Massport's obligation under MEPA to avoid or minimize, and, where appropriate, to mitigate, environmental impacts, and, under recently promulgated rules and regulations, to consider environmental justice principles through MEPA reviews.'

What does this mean? It means that both the prospective Hanscom developers and Massport itself are now required by the EEA Secretary to provide substantial additional information, in the instance of the Hanscom developers, they will need to produce a Supplemental DEIR report for their proposed

expansion. Separately Massport

must submit both a Supplemental ESPR report for Hanscom and do extensive supplemental work for the Logan ESPR. These directives are considered interim wins by climate and public health activists who are working to rein in and mitigate the harms of Massport's Logan and Hanscom expansions.

Public efforts to hold Massport accountable to the myriad environmental and health costs, and climate impacts, of its operations is a classic David and Goliath tale, where the public stands against forces that threaten their future. As climate and clean-air activists across the state await the passage of a comprehensive Climate Bill at the State House, MEPA's response to Massport's ESPR reports provides another slingshot to carry into the ring.

Valinda Chan is Team Co-Coordinator and Corinne Doud is Leader of the Bedford Chapter Campaign to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere.

Corinne Doud of Mothers Out Front Bedford and Valinda Chan of Mothers Out Front East Boston. Mothers Out Front is a national organization of mothers and others working toward a livable climate and an equitable future for all children.



Greater Boston Food Bank's 19th annual Chain of Giving

Special to the Times

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, held its 19th annual Chain of Giving event, an annual tradition uniting elected officials, local advocates, business leaders and community members to raise awareness and mitigate holiday food insecurity. The event, sponsored by Biogen and National Grid, draws attention to the persistence of food insecurity in the state and GBFB's Hunger Free Holidays campaign.

As GBFB strives to offer nutritious and culturally sensitive food to families in need this holiday season, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and GBFB President and CEO Catherine D'Amato shared remarks highlighting the critical need to address food insecurity in the Bay State. Over 150 participants then formed a human chain to pass nearly 1,200 turkeys from a delivery truck through GBFB's warehouse that would later be donated to families in need. This represents only a portion of the 46,000 turkeys and other holiday and daily food items the nonprofit expects to distribute to pantries across Eastern Massachusetts throughout the holidays.

"The holidays are a time for celebration with family and friends, but many families in Massachusetts are struggling to provide for their basic needs. Our neighbors in financial distress are often having to make tough decisions between buying food or paying for housing, healthcare, or transportation,' said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "That's why our administration takes a community-wide approach to hunger and we work hand in hand with community partners like GBFB every day. In Massachusetts, we work hard, we work smart, and we work together to be there for our neighbors in need. And we will double down our work on the root causes of food insecurity, to end hunger once and for all."

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Commissioner Jeffrey McCue of MA Department of Transitional Assistance, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden, as well as several other state and local officials joined the tradition, alongside the beloved mascots for the Red Sox and Patriots.

"The Greater Boston Food Bank provides vital support for our residents who are facing food insecurity, and I am so grateful for their continued dedication to creating a healthy and nourished community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Chain of Giving is a wonderful and inspiring tradition that provides essential relief to our residents who lack resources during the holiday season, and I look forward to continuing our partnership in order to end food scarcity in the city."

Following the Chain of Giving, GBFB celebrated the opening of its new refrigeration unit with a ribbon-cutting ceremony as part of the organization's efforts to rightsize its warehouse to support the state's historic need for food assistance. The new unit stores 400 pallets of perishable food; including highly sought-after and nutritious items such as produce, eggs, and dairy, allowing GBFB to distribute up to an estimated eight million additional meals each year.

Food insecurity has solidified as a post-pandemic, everyday lived experience for 1 in 3 Massachusetts residents – nearly 2 million individuals – according to GBFB's annual study on food access and equity. The event and accompanying fundraiser come at a time of sustained hunger brought on by an unsustainable cost of living and intersecting affordability crises in

housing, groceries, healthcare and childcare. The study also revealed disparities in food access among households of color, LGBTQ+ households, and those with children

"With soaring costs of housing, food, and daycare, these financial burdens often force families to make tough choices, like sacrificing meals to meet other essential needs," said Catherine D'Amato, GBFB President and CEO. "While these stresses may peak during the holidays, families need food yearround, not just at Thanksgiving. Massachusetts can achieve hunger-free status, but it requires collective action. Let's work together to advocate for policies that ensure food security for all."

Wellesley Girl Scout Troop Wins Nally Award

Each year, GBFB honors outstanding young people who have championed hunger-relief in their communities with the Nally Award. Established in 2006, the award is named after Danny and Betsy Nally, who at ages 8 and 6, started their very first turkey drive for GBFB. This year's Nally Award was presented to Wellesley's Girl Scout Troop 64049, who graciously donated their cookie sales profits to GBFB after learning about the impact of childhood hunger.

The troop of 15 fifth graders, who have typically donated cookie sale funds toward wildlife-related causes, was shocked to learn that other children in their community – their age and younger – face hunger. After doing their own research, they agreed to donate to GBFB to help end hunger here.

To learn more about The Greater Boston Food Bank or to join its annual Hunger Free Holidays campaign, visit GBFB.org/holidays,

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England



PHOTO COURTESY MELOPHOT

Shown (left to right) are Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, GBFB President & CEO Catherine D'Amato, Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, and Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg.

and one of the largest food banks in the country. For nearly half a century, GBFB has fueled Eastern Massachusetts' hunger-relief system, putting nearly 90 million healthy meals on tables across the region each year. Over 600 community-based pantries and other local partners in 190 cities and towns depend on GBFB to provide access to healthy food for 600,000 people every month. GBFB is committed to the belief that access to healthy food is a human right regardless of an individual's cir-

cumstances. Through policy, partnerships, and providing free, nutritious, and culturally responsive food, GBFB is committed to addressing the root causes of food insecurity while promoting racial, gender and economic equity in food access. Together, we have the power to end hunger here. For more information and to help us help others, visit us at GBFB.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter (@gr8bosfoodbank) and Instagram, or call us at 617.427.5200.

OV 12 - FEB 17 2024-2025 Hood Park + the Artists Group of Charlestown present

Sioux Gerow Recent Work

Opening Reception Friday, November 15, 5:30 - 7:00

Detail of "Bits and Pieces", 40" x 16" | Mixed Media, © Sioux Gerow



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November 22, 2024

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN POST 11 G.A.R HOLDS ANNUAL VETERANS DINNER

The Abraham Lincoln Post 11 G.A.R held its annual Veterans Dinner at the Knights Of Columbus Hall. This is the 11th year of their fundraising event that honors those who have served our country. The Veterans Dinner also brings attention to the Abraham Lincoln Post 11 G.A.R, a historic landmark in Charlestown that has undergone massive renovations to keep secure as a treasure for community.



Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan.



Abraham Lincoln Post 11 G.A.R President Joe Zuffante leads in the National Anthem.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata with Bill Brown, Judy Evers, Sandy Wilcox, and Jerry Donnaruma.



USS Constitution Lt Commander Robert Dreitz, Commander Crystal Schaefer, and Command Senior Chief Nick Albanese.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata.



USS Constitution E3 Ernest Herrera, E3 Michelle Zurita, and E6 Alex Guenther with Moe Gillen .



Thursday, November 14, 2024

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Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata with Steven Fabiano and his family after presenting him with a Citation honoring his service.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN POST 11 G.A.R HOLDS ANNUAL VETERANS DINNER

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



USS Constitution Commander Crystal Schaefer.

History reenactor Tom Coots came to enjoy the evening with his

wife Diane.



Walter and Joseph Duggan are brothers and veterans: Marines and Army respectively.



Attendees enjoyed the Veterans Dinner.



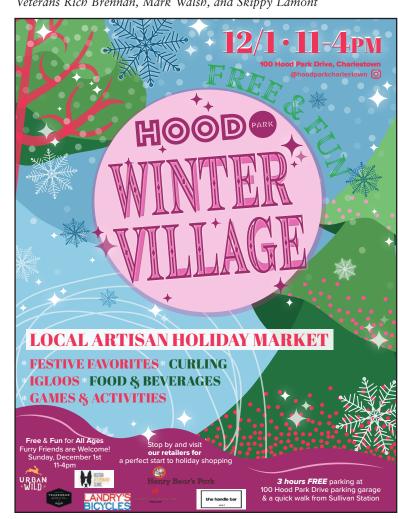
The Holiday Wreath Committee is comprised of wreath designer Diane Grant, Dodie Boyle, Chairperson Mary McGonagle, Shannon and Stephen Fabiano, and Rich Brennan. During the holidays, laminated printed wreaths with loved ones' photos are incorporated and displayed on Main Street and Bunker Hill Streets. Proceeds for the sale of the wreaths do to Veterans events throughout Charlestown. Along with those printout wreaths, 75 plaques honoring those killed in action in the squares throughout Charlestown are adorned with live wreaths. Volunteers are needed, preferably with ladders and willing to brave heights, to work with students working of community service commitments at their schools.



Steve Torosian and USS Constitution Lt Commander Robert Dreitz with Jill Duggan and her father Joseph.



Veterans Rich Brennan, Mark Walsh, and Skippy Lamont



ALL-STAR GIRLS SOCCER



Representing Charlestown High School at the all-star girls soccer game (photo above) was Isabella Cano and Emily Flores (photo right). The annual game wraps up the fall season and was held at Carter Field in the South End on Tuesday.

NEW Health is proud to announce the recipients of the John Foster and Elaine Wilson Community Health Scholarships

For the John Foster Scholarship, we're thrilled to congratulate Abadit Wineh, a dedicated Community Health Worker at NEW Health since 2022. Abi's unwavering commitment to service has been remarkable, and we're excited to support her as she pursues her master's in public health at UMass Lowell. The John Foster scholarship is designed for employees like Abi who are passionate about advancing their careers in health-

For the Elaine Wilson Scholarship, we're honored to recognize Juliana Vitello, whose deep dedication to women's health and labor and delivery nursing has truly moved us. As she works toward her nursing degree at Emmanuel College, we look forward to seeing her continue making a difference





Vincenzo Scibelli M.P.H, M.S.W, CEO of NEW Health presents Abadit Wineh and Juliana Vitello their scholarships.

in the lives of others.

Please join us in celebrating these outstanding awardees and

all the incredible applicants who shared their inspiring stories of service and dedication to healthcare.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Patriot-Bridge encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 021

We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.



STADIUM (from pg. 1)

Everett as a designated port area, which will enable the development of a professional soccer stadium and environmental cleanup in Everett. Senator Sal DiDomenico has been working for almost two years to achieve this goal, securing language in multiple bills as well as filing a standalone bill to remove this classification. The change is expected to have positive environmental and economic impacts in surrounding communities as well as improve public transit connectivity.

"I am proud to share that language I have been working on to allow for the construction of a transformational soccer stadium in Everett for the New England Revolution has been included in the final Economic Development bill," said Senator Sal DiDomenico. "This language paves the way for the public process to move forward on a project that will help my community clean up a power plant site that has been a health and environmental hazard for decades. This will result in hundreds of millions of dollars in private investment, cleanup of a hazardous waste site, the creation

of good paying union jobs, and open our waterfront for the public to enjoy. I want to thank Senate President Spilka for her long-time support, Mayor Carlo DeMaria for his advocacy and all his work on this issue, as well as the members of the conference committee for including this language in the final report. This will be an economic catalyst for our community and environmental win for our residents."

The language prohibits any public funding for the stadium project and any funding for public infrastructure improvements associated with the stadium would require matching private funds. This section of the bill also requires community mitigation agreements with the cities of Everett and Boston.

The Economic Development legislation authorizes \$3.96 billion in capital programs and a sweeping set of policy changes to support businesses and communities alike. The bill will shortly be taken up by the Senate and House, and following its passage will be sent to the Governor's desk for her signature

RYAN (from pg. 1)

we are at a point where a sports and entertainment complex is deemed an allowable use in terms of the waterfront. This is just the beginning of what will be a long and extensive process that if successful will reshape our shoreline to something that is much better and far more accessible than what has been there for 100 years.

I just want to thank my col-

leagues in the House and Senate, in particular House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria, and other interested parties for getting us to a place where we can have an open dialogue around this key piece of property and the economic opportunities it could hold."

LOCAL STUDENTS

EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

BRASSIL GRADUATES FROM ELMS COLLEGE

Paula Brassil of Charlestown received a Master of Science from Elms College following the conclusion of the summer 2024 semester.

Brassil was among 101 students who received their degrees this summer.

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares

students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

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CHARLESTOWN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB AND CHARLESTOWN COALITION HOST COMMUNITY MEETING



Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston President and CEO Robert Lewis Jr. delivers his opening remarks at the meeting. Also pictured (right) are Nikki Nutter, president of CharlestownDogs, and Colleen Boyce of RSM.



Representing the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, from left, Associate Vice President Richard Ward, Vice President Leslie Wu Foley, and Senior Advisor and Chief Strategy Officer Mike Kennealy.



Jim Henry, Director of Constituent Services for Sen. Sal DiDomenico's Office, and Rep. Dan Ryan are pictured at the community meeting hosted by the Charlestown Boys and Girls Club and the Charlestown

Charlestown Boys and Girls Club and the Charlestown Coalition hosted a community meeting Nov. 6 at the club located on Green Street.

Executive Director Frank Gallagher welcomed the large gathering of community leaders to the meeting.

BGCB President and CEO Robert Lewis Jr. was one of the invited guests. Lewis sought ideas from the group about how the Charlestown Boys and Girls Club could meet the needs of the Charlestown community.

"I thought the discussion and interchange of ideas was productive and it was a successful meeting in determining the needs of Charlestown families, children, and the community, along with seeing the best way how we as a club can better our community," said Gallagher.

Rep. Dan Ryan, who was in attendance, said the meeting was successful in bringing community leaders together and further creating partnerships between the club and the families in Charlestown.

"The Charlestown Boys and Girls Club and Robert Lewis Jr. have a tremendous track record of commitment to Boston and our own neighborhood of Charlestown," said Ryan. "I look forward to any new partnerships that will come from this extensive community feedback."

News Briefs

ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN FOR HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities announced that the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) enrollment period for the 2024-2025 winter heating season opened on October 1. This critical program provides financial relief to eligible households to help them pay their winter heating bills, ensuring they can keep their homes safe and warm during the colder months.

HEAP is a free, statewide resource that assists eligible renters and homeowners by paying a portion of their winter heating bills directly to their heating companies. Homeowners and renters can apply online or through local administering agencies across the state. The assistance period runs, to April 30, 2025. HEAP offers grants that do not need to be repaid; however, households must meet specific eligibility requirements to qualify.

"No resident should have to worry about heating their home during the winter," said Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities Ed Augustus. "With high costs continuing to strain household finances, the Home Energy Assistance Program is more critical than ever. We urge anyone in need of heating assistance to explore their eligibility by applying online or visiting the nearest administering agency. Please share this valuable information with loved ones or neighbors who could benefit

from this support during the colder months."

Eligibility is determined by several factors, including household size and the combined gross annual income of residents 18 and older. Qualifying households, including those with the cost of heat included in the rent, can receive assistance for all heating sources, including oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood and coal. Households do not need to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to qualify.

MASSACHUSETTS DECLARES "CRITICAL" DROUGHT AS WILDFIRES FLARE

Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared a Level 3-Critical Drought in Massachusetts's Central and Northeast regions, including the Charles River watershed. This marks a significant escalation from the Level 1-Mild Drought status issued on October 11. The state has experienced over three months of below-normal rainfall, exacerbating drought conditions and causing riverbeds in some areas to run dry.

Streamflow in the Charles River is at critically low levels, with some sections showing zero flow. Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) continues to monitor conditions closely in partnership with state agencies.

"Climate change is driving more frequent and severe droughts, yet even in the face of these extreme conditions, the state lacks the authority to mandate

outdoor watering restrictionsit can only recommend them," said Cabell Eames, Advocacy Director for Charles River Watershed Association. "Water doesn't respect municipal boundaries, so why should it be up to individual towns to decide how to manage water use during droughts? The Drought Management bill would allow the state to enforce outdoor watering restrictions at the regional level during declared droughts, ensuring consistency, fairness, and better protection for our rivers and water supplies."

"People usually think of droughts as a summer occurrence; to have this scale of drought, which intensified rapidly, happen in November, is the latest example of our changing climate," said Mass Rivers Alliance Policy Director Katharine Lange. "Across the state right now, sections of rivers and streams are dried up, unable to support aquatic life. In order to protect these resources, some of the most valued parts of our community, our laws, regulations, and culture have to catch up to the pace of climate change. During a drought, we do have some agency in supporting our waterways water conservation, particularly through reducing outdoor watering. Our top legislative priority, the Drought Management bill, would scale up our approach to water conservation, replacing a town-by-town patchwork response with regional coordination."

As wildfires continue to burn across the state, a ban on nonessential outdoor water use is now in effect for the Charles River watershed. Massachusetts residents are urged to visit the Mass. gov Drought Monitoring webpage for updates on drought conditions and guidelines on water conservation.

NSCS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD

North Suffolk Community Services (NSCS), a nonprofit organization that supports adults, children and families across the lifespan who are coping with behavioral health, substance use disorders and/or developmental disabilities,

is seeking volunteers to serve on its Human Rights Committee Advisory Board. The board, which meets virtually 6 times per year and conducts one site visit per month. helps ensure that NSCS programs promote and protect the rights of all people receiving services from the organization. NSCS serves Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Charlestown, Winthrop and more. NSCS seeks volunteers with the following experience: psychiatric physician or nurse; lawyer or paralegal; clinician; self-advocate/lived experience; family member of person served. For more information. please call 617-912-7716 or email mmclaughlin1@northsuffolk.org. Learn about NSCS at northsuf-



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CITY PAWS

Sick as a dog

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

"The term 'sick as a dog' originates from the 1700s, when dogs typically lived outside in poor conditions, causing them to be far mangier, dirtier, and sicker than today's well-groomed show-pieces," according to www.grammar-monster.com.

When your dog is sick, you must determine just how ill they are and whether a trip to the vet is needed. Gastrointestinal (GI) upsets are common in dogs and can be stressful for guardians. We recently faced this issue with our Westie Poppy. Fortunately, she is trained to use puppy pads, which makes handling the situation more manageable.

Puppy Pads Are Useful

We recommend that every family with dogs keep a supply of puppy pads on hand. While your dog may never use them regularly, they are perfect for caring for sick or injured animals. Both human and animal hospitals use these for surgical procedures, to catch blood, and to protect surfaces. We once shared a few pads with a neighbor who had severe nose-bleeds.

In the case of vomiting or motion sickness, the pads can catch what the animal is releasing. Most of our dogs have alerted us to possible vomit with a session of gagging. We usually have time to slip a pad under their mouth if we're keeping watch. We also use washable pads in her crate and on our bed whenever Poppy has an upset tummy.

Our recent episode involved diarrhea. We discovered that Poppy would run to her pads when she felt the urge to go, even at night. We added extra pads to our floors and didn't have the stress of constant clean-up duties.



We lined Poppy's favorite window seat with puppy pads while she was sick.

Causes of GI Illnesses

Vomiting and diarrhea are common in companion animals; many of us have experience treating them at home. We all know that some dogs will root out and gobble down anything interesting they find along the way. Some of their choices can cause a GI upset.

You might identify stress, anxiety, medications, antibiotics, or a new food as a possible cause. Grazing on grass is a common dog habit that can result in vomiting.

Off to the Vet?

Pads also help you spot warning signs requiring a veterinarian trip. If you see blood in vomit, stools, or urine, blackish stools or vomit, or the symptoms last more than a couple of days or are reoccurring, consult your veterinarian. You are off to the vet if there are multiple symptoms like fever, unusual drooling, signs of dehydration, lack of appetite, or weakness.

Fortunately, Poppy ate, drank, played, and acted normally except for the diarrhea. Her puppy pads also clearly showed us the state of

her stools, so we could see quickly that she was recovering.

Stop the Spread

Evidence on sidewalks showed that loose stools were going around our neighborhood. If you have a dog who will only poop outside, you can bring along a puppy pad and slip it in place under the dog for easy cleanup and to keep from spreading anything contagious.

We didn't add to the neighborhood's problem by keeping Poppy inside while she was sick and keeping her away from other dogs for a few days, even after her system was back to normal.

Don't forget that you can call your veterinarian and ask for guidance in your decision-making. They can suggest what, how, and when to feed an animal with a problem. You could make a cancellable appointment a few days out in case the illness continues. That could save an emergency room visit.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

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North Washington Street Bridge **CONSTRUCTION** UPDATE

A Construction Look-Ahead through November 3 is as follows: Scheduled Work

Bridge deck concrete place-

• Architectural trellis lighting installation

- City Square median asphalt paving
- Landscaping and irrigation system installation
- Fascia covering support steel installation
 - Marine fender installation Work Hours
- Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Travel Tips

For everyone using the east sidewalk of the new bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety

during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

- Bruins: November 16, at 1 p.m., November 18, at 7 p.m., and November 21, at 7 p.m.
- Celtics: November 16, at 8 p.m., and November 19, at 7 p.m.
- Other events: November 20, at 6 p.m., and November 23, at 7 p.m.

How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via email by clicking this link.

Project website: Mass. g o v / n o r t h - w a s h i n g - ton-street-bridge-replacement Project email: NorthWashington-Street@dot.state.ma.us.

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper.
Includes photo.No word Limit.
Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

Eco-friendly practices sustain The Greenway all year long

This year, the Greenway Conservancy's Horticultural team has been hard at work creating and maintaining one of The Greenway's greatest gifts: the lush, vibrant, and healthy parks that inspire visitors to connect with nature, recharge mentally and physically, and enjoy a moment to ground themselves as the city hums around them.

A unique aspect of The Greenway is that all horticulture is managed ecologically and organically—no synthetic pesticides or herbicides are used in our gardens. This means our lawns are safe for all to enjoy, and the birds and insects that call The Greenway home thrive without exposure to harmful chemicals. Being close to Boston Harbor, our commitment to organic practices also prevents any dangerous runoff into the



ANTHONY CRISAFULLI PHOTO

Volunteers working on projects in the North End.

water. We maintain our landscape with battery-powered equipment, a sustainable choice that's healthier for our team to operate and eliminates exhaust and greenhouse gasses.

In 2024, we focused on increasing biodiversity by introducing a "soft landing" beneath tree canopies, planting native perennials that provide essential food and shelter for caterpillars. We also ensured that our maintenance practices within our gardens benefited native insects and pollinators. We held off on cutting back large plants where insects may be nesting, and routinely tracked our Pollinator Homes throughout the park.

We also renovated Dewey Square lawn, replacing traditional turf with a grass and microclover blend that requires less mowing, less water, and naturally enriches the soil with nitrogen. In addition,



CREENWAY CONSERVANCY STATE DUOT

birds, butterflies, and the bloom

cycles of our plants. This year, vol-

unteers spotted three news species

NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Greenway Horticulture Team.

we increased the tree diversity in the park by planting new native species which included the pink flowering dogwood and pink flowering Carolina silverbell (an Arnold Arboretum introduction). Over in Mary Soo Hoo Park, a unique Chinese fringe tree with a

slender, upright shape and fragrant summer blooms now adds texture and color year-round.

Volunteers provided the necessary support to make all of these

new projects possible. Monday

through Friday, volunteers weed-

ed, planted, and maintained our

gardens. They also continued to

of butterflies that have never been observed in Downtown Boston!

As we continue to add new plantings and organic horticulture to enrich the visitor experience and elevate diversity within our gardens, we invite you to join us in

to enrich the visitor experience and elevate diversity within our gardens, we invite you to join us in supporting The Greenway and our Horticulture program. With your help, we can keep this green oasis thriving in downtown Boston for everyone to enjoy. Support The Greenway today to help us grow and sustain a greener, more connected community.

Harvest on Vine

Emergency Food Pantry Thurs, Nov. 21 Mishawum - 1:00 pm

To volunteer or for more information please call Tom MacDonald 617-990-7314

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

STANDINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 11/9/2024

	W	L	Τ
Massport's Finest	7	0	3
Duce 2	6	1	3
Halligan Club	2	3	5
YMCA	2	4	4
McCarthy Bros	0	5	5
A-1 Convenience	0	6	4

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK OF 11/9/2024

A-1 Convenience - Bobby Beckwith, Gennaro McCarthy

Duce 2 - Cole Riley, Ben Martino

Halligan Club - Frank Smith, Liam Stearns

Massport's Finest - Liam Ho, Donnie Garrity

McCarthy Bros. - Georgiana Lapage, Jack Bradshaw

YMCA - Patrick Toboni, Barrett Huang



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